Timeline of Department of Defense Actions on September 11-12, 2012
All times are Eastern Daylight Time (EDT, Washington, DC)
and Eastern European Time (EET, Benghazi)

Tuesday, September 11, 2012
EDT // EET

~3:42 pm // 9:42 pm	The incident starts at the facility in Benghazi.
3:59 pm // 9:59 pm	An unarmed, unmanned, surveillance aircraft is directed to reposition overhead the Benghazi facility.
4:32 pm // 10:32pm	The National Military Command Center at the Pentagon, after receiving initial reports of the incident from the State Department, notifies the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff. The information is quickly passed to Secretary Panetta and General Dempsey.
5:00 pm // 11:00pm	Secretary Panetta and General Dempsey attend a previously scheduled meeting with the President at the White House. The leaders discuss potential responses to the emerging situation.
5:10 pm // 11:10 pm	The diverted surveillance aircraft arrives on station over the Benghazi facility.
~5:30 pm // 11:30 pm	All surviving American personnel have departed the facility.
6:00-8:00 pm // 12:00-2:00 am	Secretary Panetta convenes a series of meetings in the Pentagon with senior officials including General Dempsey and General Ham. They discuss additional response options for Benghazi and for the potential outbreak of further violence throughout the region, particularly in Tunis, Tripoli, Cairo, and Sana'a. During these meetings, Secretary Panetta directs (provides verbal authorization) the following actions: 1) A Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST) platoon, stationed in Rota, Spain, to prepare to deploy to Benghazi, and a second FAST platoon, also stationed in Rota, Spain, to prepare to deploy to the Embassy in Tripoli. 2) A EUCOM special operations force, which is training in Central Europe, to prepare to deploy to an intermediate staging base in southern Europe. 3) A special operations force based in the United States to prepare to deploy to an intermediate staging base in southern Europe. During this period, actions are verbally conveyed from the Pentagon to the affected Combatant Commands in order to expedite movement of forces upon receipt of formal authorization.
~6:30 pm // 12:30 am	A six-man security team from U.S. Embassy Tripoli, including two DoD personnel, departs for Benghazi.

~7:30 pm // 1:30 am	The American security team from Tripoli lands in Benghazi.
~8:30pm // 2:30 am	The National Military Command Center conducts a Benghazi Conference Call with representatives from AFRICOM, EUCOM, CENTCOM, TRANSCOM, SOCOM, and the four services.
8:39pm // 2:39 am	As ordered by Secretary Panetta, the National Military Command Center transmits formal authorization for the two FAST platoons, and associated equipment, to prepare to deploy and for the EUCOM special operations force, and associated equipment, to move to an intermediate staging base in southern Europe.
8:53pm // 2:53 am	As ordered by Secretary Panetta, the National Military Command Center transmits formal authorization to deploy a special operations force, and associated equipment, from the United States to an intermediate staging base in southern Europe.
~11:00 pm // 5:00 am	A second, unmanned, unarmed surveillance aircraft is directed to relieve the initial asset still over Benghazi.
~11:15 pm // 5:15 am	The second facility in Benghazi comes under mortar and rocket propelled grenade fire.

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

12:05 am // 6:05am	AFRICOM orders a C-17 aircraft in Germany to prepare to deploy to Libya to evacuate Americans.
~1:40 am // 7:40 am	The first wave of American personnel depart Benghazi for Tripoli via airplane.
~4:00 am // 10:00 am	The second wave of Americans, including the fallen, depart Benghazi for Tripoli via airplane.
8:15 am // 2:15 pm	The C-17 departs Germany en route Tripoli to evacuate Americans.
1:17 pm // 7:17 pm	The C-17 departs Tripoli en route Ramstein, Germany with the American personnel and the remains of Ambassador Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glen Doherty.
1:57 pm // 7:57 pm	The EUCOM special operations force, and associated equipment, arrives at an intermediate staging base in southern Europe.
2:56 pm // 8:56 pm	The FAST platoon, and associated equipment, arrives in Tripoli.
3:28 pm // 9:28 pm	The special operations force deployed from the United States, and associated equipment, arrives at an intermediate staging base in southern Europe.
4:19 pm // 10:19 pm	The C-17 arrives in Ramstein, Germany.